

B. REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 5-8, 10-13, 17, 19-22, 27-30, 32-37, 41, 43-44, 53-56, 60, 64 and 68 have been canceled and Claims 1, 9, 23, 31, 47, 49, 51, 52, 57, 58, 62 and 66 have been amended. Hence, Claims 1-4, 9, 14-16, 18, 23-26, 31, 38-40, 42, 45-52, 57-59, 61-63, 65-67 and 69 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims do not add any new matter to this application. All issues raised in the Office Action mailed July 27, 2004 are addressed hereinafter.

ALLOWED AND ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

In the Office Action, Claims 14-16, 18, 38-40, 42 and 45-48 were indicated as being allowed. Claim 47 has been amended to correct a typographical error and now depends from allowed Claim 45. In the Office Action, Claims 8, 9, 30, 31, 56, 57, 60, 64 and 68 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. This has been done by the claim amendments included herein and summarized as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 8 and intervening Claim 5. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of base Claim 1 and intervening Claims 3 and 4. Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 30 and intervening Claim 27. Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of base Claim 23 and intervening Claims 25 and 26. Claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 56 and intervening Claim 53. Claim 57 has been amended to include the limitations of base Claim 49 and intervening Claims 51 and 52. Claim 58 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 60. Claim 62 has been amended to

include the limitations of allowable Claim 64. Claim 66 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 68.

**REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7, 23-29, 49-55, 58, 59, 61-63, 65-67 AND 69 UNDER
35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-7, 23-29, 49-55, 58, 59, 61-63, 65-67 and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *DeRoo et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,182,752 (hereinafter “*DeRoo*”). In view of the amendments made herein to rewrite the allowable claims in independent form, including the limitations of all intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the issues raised in the Final Office Action mailed on January 28, 2004 have been fully addressed. It is further respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



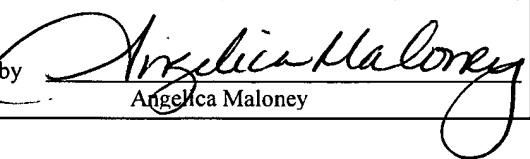
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On October 26, 2004 by


Angelica Maloney